

WYCOMBE Wanderers completely outclassed Oxford City last night (Monday) and took their goal tally to 14 in two games—almost doubling their total for the season (writes Stuart Earp).

Poor Oxford never knew what hit them. Four goals down after only 20 minutes they managed to stem the tide until half time but in the second half, Wycombe piled on the agony with four more goals. Tony Horseman, Larry Pritchard and Mick Holifield all scored two each, with Keith Searle and Tony Amos completing the eight.

It doubled Wanderers biggest league score of the season (4-0 against Hitchin) and left Oxford still searching for their first victory of the season. City have now conceded 47 goals in their 15 outings to date. The two points for Wycombe mean they move into fourth place from sixth behind Hendon, Walton and Enfield — in that order.

The Blues continued where they left off against Egham on Saturday, where they scored six goals in the second half. Despite the sudden change of conditions with the ball zipping off the greasy turf, they were still able to produce their own brand of football which tore Oxford's meagre defence to shreds.

The rout started in the second minute when an astute through ball from Johnny Hutchinson found Larry Pritchard who, after hesitating slightly, managed to get his foot to the ball and send it under John West's body. West was in the side as City's regular 'keeper was out with 'flu.

The goalkeeper's inexperience was shown up four minutes later when he failed to cover the near

8-0! City humbled by Blues

Oxford City 0, Wycombe Wanderers 8

post — Horseman spotting the space and sending in an accurate shot from Delaney's through ball.

Wycombe's precision passing opened up massive gaps in the home defence and it came as no surprise when Mick Holifield made it 3-0 in the 13th minute. Hutchinson again supplied the pass right through the centre of the City defence and although surrounded by defenders, Mick had enough time to whip the ball into the back of the net.

Six minutes later it was 4-0 with another goal which underlined the pathetic Oxford covering. A hard left foot cross from Holifield was met by Searle, who had come back from an offside position which referee D. Mahoney failed to spot, and the centre forward nodded a loping header over West, who was rooted on his line.

Oxford at last managed to stop the free flowing Wycombe raids with some thumping clear-

ances although Tony Horseman had a glancing header cleared off the line by Trevor Stokes after 25 minutes. City's first reply of the half came three minutes later by Matthew Hunt.

Hunt's strong shooting brought a couple of useful saves from Kevin O'Brien later in the game but the only Oxford player to look anything like the class of Wycombe was Paul Kurka, signed over the weekend from Marlow. Playing the game at his own pace, Kurka put in some dangerous crosses and was the only forward to trouble Wycombe's back four.

In the 20 minutes before the interval Wycombe went off the boil and Oxford, to their credit, came back well. After the interval, however, Wycombe brought on Tony Amos for Rob Williams and the extra forward meant even more headaches for Oxford.

After Holifield had a goal disallowed after 60 minutes, Tony Horseman made it 5-0 after West had parried Amos's powerful left-foot drive. Then Holifield scored again, this time with a brilliant individual run against his former club, taking the ball 30 yards before rounding the 'keeper and shooting home.

Two minutes later Pritchard smashed home a 20 yarder for number seven and Tony Amos, who had previously missed a good chance when he ran from the half way line only for West blocked his shot, added the final goal from Searle's cross in the 85th minute.

OXFORD CITY: J. West, J. Lamb, A. Inseal, T. Stokes, A. Evans, M. Hunt, J. Haw (sub S. Freeman 64 mins), E. Metcalfe, J. Beasley, G. Smith, P. Kurka.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: K. O'Brien, I. Rundle, P. Birdseye, G. Olson, J. Delaney, R. Williams (sub. A. Amos 45 mins), M. Holifield, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, A. Horseman, J. Hutchinson.

Referee: D. Mahoney (Croydon).

Half-time: 0-4

Goalscorers: Wycombe:- Pritchard 2 (2, 76), Horseman 2 (6, 60), Holifield 2 (13, 74), Searle (19), Amos (85).